

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are in the application. The specification and claim 1 and 8 have been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the specification and claims. Applicant has amended the specification to add a brief description of FIG. 1, which is referred to in Example 1 on page 12 of the specification. Applicant has also amended claim 1 to use the full name of SAM, as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that is not sufficiently described in the specification and as being not enabled for the broad scope claimed. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 4, now canceled. Claim 1 now claims a feedback-resistant homoserine transsuccinylase that contains one of the mutations listed in table 1 of the

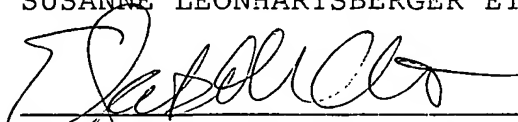
specification. Claims 2, 3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1, so this element is now included in the dependent claims as well.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP2001139471, and rejected claims 1-3 as being anticipated by Nelson, Godner et al. and Del Vecchio et al.

Since Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 4, Applicant submits that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references, since none of the cited references teach or suggest the particular mutations claimed in amended claim 1.

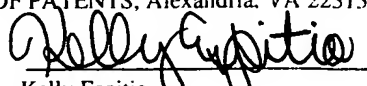
Accordingly Applicant submits that claims 1-3 and 5-9 meet the requirements of 35 USC 112 and are patentable over the cited references. Early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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